

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A diffuser for placement in front of a sound wave emission side of a sound source, the diffuser comprising:

a flow plate positioned along a sound wave emission direction of the sound source, the flow plate having a wall tapered inwardly in the sound wave emission direction.

20. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 19, wherein the flow plate is a tapered cone shape.

21. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 19, wherein the flow plate is an inner flow plate and the diffuser further comprises an outer flow plate positioned along the sound wave emission direction.

22. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 21, wherein the inner flow plate is a tapered cone.

23. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 22, wherein the outer flow plate has a first opening proximal to the sound source and a second opening distal from the sound source, the first opening being smaller than the second opening.

24. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 19, wherein the flow plate includes at least two spaced apart plates, inclined towards each other.

25. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 21, wherein the inner flow plate includes at least two spaced apart plates, inclined towards each other.

26. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 25, wherein the outer flow plate includes at least two spaced apart plates, inclined away from each.

27. The diffuser according to claim 19, wherein the flow plate is a first flow plate and the diffuser further comprises a second flow plate, the second flow plate positioned adjacent the first flow plate along the sound wave emission direction of the sound source, the second flow plate having a wall tapered inwardly in the sound wave emission direction.

28. (New) A diffuser for placement in front of a sound wave emission side of a sound source, the diffuser comprising:

a flow plate positioned along a sound wave emission direction of the sound source, the flow plate having a first opening proximal to the sound source and a second opening distal from the sound source, the first opening being larger than the second opening.

29. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 28, wherein the flow plate is a tapered cone shape.

30. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 28, wherein the flow plate is an inner flow plate and the diffuser further comprises an outer flow plate positioned along the sound wave emission direction.

31. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 30, wherein the inner flow plate is a tapered cone.

32. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 31, wherein the outer flow plate has a first opening proximal to the sound source and a second opening distal from the sound source, the first opening being smaller than the second opening.

33. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 28, wherein the flow plate includes at least two spaced apart plates, inclined towards each other.

34. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 30, wherein the inner flow plate includes at least two spaced apart plates, inclined towards each other.

35. (New) The diffuser as claimed in claim 34, wherein the outer flow plate includes at least two spaced apart plates, inclined away from each.

36. (New) The diffuser according to claim 28, wherein the flow plate is a first flow plate and the diffuser further comprises a second flow plate, the second flow plate positioned adjacent the first flow plate along the sound wave emission direction of the sound source, the second flow plate having a first opening proximal to the sound source and a second opening distal from the sound source, the first opening being larger than the second opening.

37. (New) A speaker comprising:  
a sound source having a sound wave emission side; and  
a diffuser according to claim 19 located in front of the sound wave emission side of the sound source.

38. (New) The speaker according to claim 37, further comprising a protective net disposed in front of the sound wave emission side of the sound source, the diffuser being fixed to the protective net.

39. (New) The speaker according to claim 38, wherein the diffuser is fixed in front of the protective net, behind the protective net, or both in front of and behind the protective net.

40. (New) A speaker comprising:  
a sound source having a sound wave emission side; and  
a diffuser according to claim 28 located in front of the sound wave emission  
side of the sound source.

41. (New) The speaker according to claim 40, further comprising a  
protective net disposed in front of the sound wave emission side of the sound source,  
the diffuser being fixed to the protective net.

42. (New) The speaker according to claim 41, wherein the diffuser is fixed in  
front of the protective net, behind the protective net, or both in front of and behind the  
protective net.